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ABSTRACT

This report to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, examines trends in characteristics related to participation of college men and women in athletic programs. The report focuses on net changes between academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97, by gender and sport, for schools that were members of the National Collegiate Athletic Association with respect to five characteristics: (1) number of student athletes and proportion of undergraduate students participating in athletics; (2) number of teams; (3) number of different sports sponsored; (4) average squad size; and (5) maximum number of athletic scholarships schools were allowed to award. The study found that intercollegiate athletic participation by women increased between these two periods, while athletic participation by men decreased during the same period. The overall proportions of both men and women undergraduates who participated in athletics decreased over the period, though participation levels generally remained higher for men than for women. Participation trends also varied considerably by sport. Tables present findings on each of the five characteristics. Three enclosures provide additional information about scope and methodology, detailed data on athletic characteristics by sport for the two time periods, and changes in the maximum number of scholarships allowed. (DB)

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ED 432 943

June 18, 1999

Intercollegiate Athletics: Comparison of Selected Characteristics of Men's and Women's Programs

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Health, Education, and
Human Services Division

B-279450

June 18, 1999

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
of Representatives

Subject: Intercollegiate Athletics: Comparison of Selected Characteristics of Men's and Women's Programs

Dear Mr. Speaker:

More than 400,000 American men and women participate in intercollegiate athletics each year. The past decade has, however, seen changes in the number of men and women college athletes and the sports in which they participate. One such change has been the increased representation of women in intercollegiate athletics. Some studies suggest this increase is due, in part, to title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity, including intercollegiate athletics, receiving federal financial assistance.[1] At the same time, concern has been expressed about whether the representation of men in athletics has decreased as a consequence of efforts to increase opportunities for women. Detailed information about changes in the makeup of college athletes by gender, however, has been limited.

Given the concern and lack of information, you asked us to look at trends in several characteristics related to athletic participation. As agreed with your office, we focused our work on identifying the net change between academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97, by gender and sport, for schools that

[1]Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, P.L. 92-318, as amended (20 U.S.C. sec. 1681 et seq.).

were members of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)[2] in those 2 years, with respect to the following five characteristics:

- number of student athletes,
- number of teams,
- number of different sports sponsored,
- average squad size, and
- maximum number of athletic scholarships schools were allowed to award.

In addition, you asked that we examine not only the number of student athletes but also the proportion of undergraduate students at 4-year schools that participated as athletes during academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97.

Our analyses were based primarily on a subset of NCAA members consisting of 725 schools that were in the same division in academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97.[3] We analyzed data from this subset because of the significant fluctuation in membership over the 12-year period (the number of NCAA member schools increased almost 30 percent, from 792 to 1,026, and some schools changed their division affiliation). This subset analysis provided a particularly useful way to look at changes in characteristics because it minimized the effect of the fluctuations in the number of member schools. Our analysis of the proportion of undergraduates that participated in athletics at 4-year schools was based on information obtained from not only the NCAA but also the Department of Education and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).[4,5] Enclosure I describes our

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[2]Most 4-year postsecondary schools with intercollegiate athletic programs participate in the NCAA, according to association officials. The NCAA, the largest athletic association for 4-year schools, establishes rules related to the administration of intercollegiate athletics. In academic year 1996-97, it had over 1,000 member schools.

[3]NCAA member schools belong to one of three divisions, generally depending on the size of the schools' athletic programs and facilities. Those with the largest programs belong to Division I; those with smaller programs are members of Divisions II or III.

[4]The NAIA is the second largest athletic association for 4-year schools. In academic year 1996-97, its membership consisted of about 350 schools.

scope and methodology in detail. Enclosure II presents participation trends, by sport, for the 725 NCAA schools described above, and enclosure III presents information on the maximum number of scholarships NCAA schools are allowed to award to their athletes.

In summary, the general pattern that emerged from the data from the two periods we examined was that intercollegiate athletic participation by women increased between academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97, while athletic participation by men decreased in the same period. In particular, the total number of male athletes decreased while the number of female athletes increased. However, when the number of athletes was examined as a percentage of the total undergraduate population, which increased during this period, the proportions of both men and women undergraduates that were athletes decreased over the period. For the five characteristics of schools' athletic programs that we examined, participation levels generally remained higher for men than for women, even though trends varied considerably by sport.

NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN STUDENT ATHLETES

Depending on the type of analysis, the trends in men's and women's athletic participation varied. Looking at athletes as a portion of all undergraduates, there was a small decrease in participation for both men and women between academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97. However, the number of

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[5]To calculate the proportion of undergraduates that participated in athletics at 4-year NCAA schools, we needed to divide the total number of athletes at NCAA schools by the total undergraduate enrollment at NCAA schools. However, total undergraduate enrollment data were not available from the NCAA for the 725 schools in our analysis. Therefore, we used enrollment data for all 4-year schools, which we obtained from the Department of Education. Since we used the number of undergraduates at all 4-year schools in the denominator, we needed to use the number of athletes at all 4-year schools in the numerator. The number of student athletes at NCAA and NAIA member schools represents nearly all student athletes at 4-year schools, according to association officials. Therefore, by combining data from both the NCAA and the NAIA on athletes participating in their member schools, we estimated that we were counting the majority of all intercollegiate athletes.

women undergraduates increased more than the number of men (an increase of about 500,000 women compared with about 100,000 men) across the 12-year period. As a result, even though the number of women athletes increased by about 24,000, their proportion of all women undergraduates decreased slightly. The percentage of men undergraduates who were athletes also decreased–from 10.7 percent to 9.7 percent of enrolled undergraduates. (See table 1.)

Table 1: Percentage of Undergraduates at 4-year Schools That Participated as NCAA and NAIA Athletes, by Gender, in Academic Years 1985-86 and 1996-97

	Number of NCAA and NAIA student athletes		Number of full-time undergraduates at all 4-year schools		Percentage of undergraduates that were athletes	
	1985-86	1996-97	1985-86	1996-97	1985-86	1996-97
Men	248,744	234,706	2,330,138	2,422,374	10.7	9.7
Women	125,337	149,502	2,298,847	2,801,792	5.5	5.3

Sources: The NCAA, NAIA, and Department of Education.

At the 725 NCAA schools we analyzed, the number of women athletes in Divisions I and III increased, while the number of men athletes decreased in all three divisions between academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97. (See table 2.)

Table 2: Change in the Number of Men and Women Student Athletes for the 725 Schools With NCAA Membership in the Same Division in Both Academic Years 1985-86 and 1996-97

	Number of athletes		
	1985-86	1996-97	Percentage change from 1985-86 to 1996-97
Division I			
Men athletes	87,108	78,370	-10
Women athletes	37,145	47,833	29
Division II			
Men athletes	30,126	25,278	-16
Women athletes	15,986	15,660	-2
Division III			
Men athletes	67,806	59,988	-12
Women athletes	35,567	39,759	12
Total student athletes			
Men athletes	185,040	163,636	-12
Women athletes	88,698	103,252	16

Notes: The NCAA reports information for men and women athletes participating in rifle, a coed sport, as male student information. Athletes in sports sponsored by fewer than 10 NCAA member schools are not included. The total number of athletes is based on sports for which information was reported in both academic years.

Source: The NCAA.

In addition, there were differences in the trends by sport. For example, the largest increase in the number of male athletes was in lacrosse, while the largest decreases were in gymnastics and rifle. Among the women's sports, soccer experienced the largest growth, while the largest decrease was in gymnastics. (See encl. II, table II.1, for information on the number of men and women student athletes by sport.)

NUMBER OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAMS

Like the number of student athletes, the number of women's teams increased and the number of men's teams decreased between academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97 for the 725 schools that were NCAA members in the same division in both those years. Nevertheless, the number of men's teams exceeded the number of women's teams in academic year 1996-97, except in NCAA Division II. (See table 3.)

Table 3: Change in the Number of Men's and Women's Teams for the 725 Schools With NCAA Membership in the Same Division in Both Academic Years 1985-86 and 1996-97

	Number of teams		Percentage change from 1985-86 to 1996-97
	1985-86	1996-97	
Division I			
Men's teams	2,789	2,629	-6
Women's teams	2,160	2,550	18
Division II			
Men's teams	1,096	1,032	-6
Women's teams	967	1,042	8
Division III			
Men's teams	2,429	2,470	2
Women's teams	2,045	2,456	20
Total teams			
Men's teams	6,314	6,131	-3
Women's teams	5,172	6,048	17

Notes: The NCAA reports information for men and women athletes participating in rifle, a coed sport, as male student information. Teams in sports sponsored by fewer than 10 NCAA member schools are not included. The total number of teams is based on sports for which information was reported in both academic years.

Source: The NCAA.

The trends varied by sport, however. For example, the largest increase in the number of men's teams was in lacrosse, while the largest decreases were in gymnastics and rifle. Among the women's teams, soccer experienced the fastest growth, while the largest decrease was in gymnastics. (See encl. II, table II.2, for information on the number of men's and women's teams by sport.)

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SPORTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN ATHLETES

The number of different sports sponsored for women increased by one, and those sponsored for men declined by two, between academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97. Still, in academic year 1996-97, the number of men's sports in the NCAA exceeded the number of women's sports (21 versus 19).

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S AVERAGE SQUAD SIZES

The average number of student athletes participating per team (known as squad size) at the 725 NCAA member schools decreased for men between academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97, but the trend was mixed for women. The average squad size decreased for 20 of the 21 men's sports for which data were reported in both periods. Six women's sports showed an increase in average squad size, while 12 showed a decline. (See encl. II, tables II.3 and II.4, for average squad size, by sport, for the 725 NCAA schools.)

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS SCHOOLS WERE ALLOWED TO AWARD

NCAA rules limit the number of scholarships member schools may award. For NCAA men's programs, the maximum number of scholarships each member school was allowed to award declined overall between 1985-86 and 1996-97, while the overall trend for women's sports was up. Nevertheless, in Division I in academic year 1996-97, the maximum number of scholarships schools were allowed to award for male athletes still exceeded the number for female athletes. (See table 4.)

Table 4: Change in the Maximum Number of Athletic Scholarships Each School Was Allowed to Award in the NCAA, Academic Years 1985-86 and 1996-97

	Maximum number of scholarships each school was allowed to award		
	1985-86	1996-97	Percentage change
Division I			
Men's sports	342	306	-10
Women's sports	137	227	66
Division II			
Men's sports	117	106	-9
Women's sports	110	190	73

Note: Division III schools are not allowed to award athletic scholarships.

Source: The NCAA.

The maximum number of scholarships allowed declined for all men's sports in Divisions I and II. Division III schools are not allowed to award athletic scholarships. The trends for women's scholarships varied, however, by sport. NCAA member schools are allowed to award athletic scholarships for nine new women's sports: archery, badminton, bowling, crew/rowing, ice hockey, squash, synchronized swimming, team handball, and water polo. Apart from the 9 new sports, the maximum number of women's scholarships in Division I increased for 6 sports and remained unchanged for 7 sports, and women's scholarships in Division II decreased for 10 sports and were unchanged for 3 sports. (See encl. III, tables III.1 and III.2, for men's and women's maximum scholarships by sport.)

NCAA COMMENTS

We discussed the report's contents with association officials and incorporated their technical comments as appropriate.

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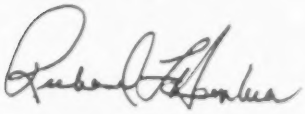
As agreed with your office, unless you publicly announce its contents earlier, we plan no further distribution of this report until 30 days after the date of this letter. At that time, we will send copies to the Honorable Richard W. Riley, the Secretary of Education; the Presidents of the NCAA and NAIA; appropriate congressional committees; and, upon request, other interested parties.

If you have any questions about this letter, please call Carlotta C. Joyner at (202) 512-6806. Other contacts and staff who made key contributions to this letter are listed in enclosure IV.

Sincerely yours,



Richard L. Hembra
Assistant Comptroller General

Enclosures - 4

ENCLOSURE I

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

We obtained and analyzed information on the number of student athletes and teams, number of different sports that schools sponsored, average squad size, and maximum number of scholarships schools were allowed to award. We gathered this information for academic year 1985-86, as you requested, and academic year 1996-97, the most recent year for which data were available. We obtained the information by interviewing and obtaining documents from officials at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). This information was based on statistics provided by the association's member schools.

We also obtained information on full-time undergraduate enrollment for fall 1985 and 1996. Because the NCAA and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) did not maintain information on total enrollment for their member schools in the 2 academic years we studied, we obtained this information for all 4-year schools from the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. These data are estimates of the number of full-time undergraduates enrolled in the fall at schools that offer a bachelor's or higher degree. These include schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia whether or not they sponsored intercollegiate athletics programs. In addition to obtaining the number of student athletes from the NCAA, we also obtained this information from the NAIA for academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97. Officials at the NCAA and the NAIA told us that the number of student athletes attending NCAA and NAIA member schools accounted for nearly all student athletes at all 4-year schools.

For each NCAA division and sport, we obtained the number of athletes, number of sponsoring schools, and average squad size, by gender. From this information, we computed total athletes and total teams. To compute total athletes, we first summed the number of athletes for each division, by sport (to obtain total athletes by sport), and then aggregated the sum for all sports for each division. The NCAA considers the number of schools sponsoring a sport to be equivalent to the number of teams in a sport. Thus, we computed total teams by first summing the number of sponsoring schools in each division, by sport (to obtain total teams by sport), and then aggregating the sum for all sports. The NCAA calculates average squad size for a sport by dividing the number of athletes participating in that sport by the number of schools sponsoring that sport.

Because of significant fluctuations in NCAA membership (in the number of schools as well as in their division affiliation) between academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97,[6] we based our analyses of the information on schools that were members in both academic years examined. Therefore, we analyzed NCAA participation statistics for the 725 schools that were association members in both academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97 and that also remained in the same division: 278 in Division I, 153 in Division II, and 294 in Division III. Thus, if a school was an NCAA member in 1 year but not the other, or if it went from one division to another during this period, it was excluded from our study sample. Information on the maximum number of scholarships schools were allowed to award was determined by the rules of the NCAA.

Under NCAA rules, some sports at the same school might be classified in different divisions. For example, an NCAA bylaw effective in academic year 1985-86 allowed a member of Division II or III to petition to be classified in Division I in any one men's sport, except basketball and football, and any one women's sport. By 1996-97, the bylaw had not changed for men's sports, but an exclusion had been added for women's basketball. In addition, in 1996-97, a Division II school could be classified as Division I in a sport for which there were Division I and III championships, but no Division II championship. Participation statistics for such sports are reflected in statistics for Division I. Sports sponsored by Division II and III schools at the Division I level, as well as the number of schools sponsoring such sports, are shown in table I.1.

We conducted our review between November 1997 and May 1999 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

[6]Between academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97, the NCAA's membership increased from 792 to 1,026 schools (about 30 percent).

Table I.1: Number of NCAA Division II and III Schools Sponsoring a Sport in Division I in Academic Years 1985-86 and 1996-97

	1985-86		1996-97	
	Division II	Division III	Division II	Division III
Men's sport				
Baseball	6	1	5	0
Golf	0	0	1	0
Gymnastics	1	0	0	0
Ice hockey	7	4	13	5
Lacrosse	0	2	1	2
Skiing	0	1	0	0
Soccer	6	2	4	2
Tennis	0	1	0	0
Volleyball	0	1	0	1
Wrestling	9	2	10	2
Women's sport				
Basketball	3	0	0	0
Field hockey	2	1	2	1
Gymnastics	2	0	2	0
Soccer	0	2	0	1
Softball	2	0	0	0
Tennis	1	1	0	0
Track	1	0	0	0
Volleyball	1	0	0	0

Several factors might have caused our analysis to either overstate or understate the number of student athletes and teams. For example, some schools are members of both the NCAA and the NAIA. The NAIA estimated that, in August 1998, 58 of the 325 NAIA member schools (18 percent) could also have been members of the NCAA. Because dual membership schools report their participation statistics to both associations, the number of student athletes used to calculate the portion of undergraduates that were athletes may be overstated. In addition, to the extent that an individual student participated in more than one sport in a school year, our calculation of the number of student athletes may be overstated. However, NCAA did not report the number of athletes and teams in sports sponsored by fewer than 10

member schools, and this may have understated our calculation of the number of athletes and teams. The number of athletes would also be understated to the extent that 4-year schools that were not NCAA or NAIA members were excluded from our analyses.

INFORMATION ON SELECTED ATHLETIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR SCHOOLS THAT WERE MEMBERS IN THE SAME DIVISION OF THE NCAA IN BOTH ACADEMIC YEARS 1985-86 AND 1996-97

This enclosure presents information on the changes in the number of student athletes, teams, and average squad size for various men's and women's sports, between academic years 1985-86 and 1996-97, for the 725 schools that were NCAA members and remained in the same NCAA division in those academic years.

Table II.1: Change in Number of Student Athletes, by Sport, for the 725 Schools With NCAA Membership in the Same Division in Both Academic Years 1985-86 and 1996-97

	Number of student athletes		
Sport	1985-86	1996-97	Percentage change from 1985-86 to 1996-97
Baseball (sponsored for men only)			
Men	20,466	18,284	-11
Basketball			
Men	12,604	11,253	-11
Women	10,358	9,809	-5
Bowling			
Men	92	[a]	[b]
Women	[a]	[a]	[b]
Crew/rowing			
Men	2,318	2,036	-12
Women	2,581	3,778	46
Cross-country			
Men	9,075	8,106	-11
Women	6,563	7,951	21
Fencing			
Men	1,273	659	-48
Women	584	558	-5
Field hockey (sponsored for women only)			
Women	5,619	4,296	-24
Football (sponsored for men only)			
Men	47,811	44,482	-7
Golf			
Men	6,753	5,568	-18
Women	1,147	2,063	80

ENCLOSURE II

Gymnastics			
Men	911	399	-56
Women	1,786	1,224	-31
Ice hockey			
Men	4,403	3,434	-22
Women	307	421	37
Lacrosse			
Men	4,998	5,144	3
Women	2,995	3,636	21
Rifle[c]			
Men	778	341	-56
Sailing			
Men	757	[a]	[b]
Women	[a]	[a]	[b]
Skiing			
Men	864	532	-38
Women	509	454	-11
Soccer			
Men	14,356	12,759	-11
Women	4,510	11,467	154
Softball (sponsored for women only)			
Women	8,862	9,581	8
Squash			
Men	387	367	-5
Women	292	367	26
Swimming			
Men	7,733	6,805	-12
Women	7,455	7,754	4
Tennis			
Men	7,728	6,186	-20
Women	7,024	6,151	-12
Track (indoor)			
Men	14,486	13,960	-4
Women	8,282	11,458	38
Track (outdoor)			
Men	18,213	16,305	-10
Women	10,660	13,229	24
Volleyball			
Men	796	811	2

Women	9,165	9,053	-1
Water polo			
Men	1,112	859	-23
Women	[a]	452	[b]
Wrestling (sponsored for men only)			
Men	7,975	5,347	-33

[a]Not reported by the NCAA because the sport was sponsored by fewer than 10 member schools in this academic year.

[b]Data for these sports were not reported in both periods, and thus a percentage change could not be computed.

[c]An NCAA official advised us that the NCAA reports information for men and women athletes participating in rifle, a coed sport, as male student information.

Table II.2: Change in Number of Teams, by Sport, for the 725 Schools With NCAA Membership in the Same Division in Both Academic Years 1985-86 and 1996-97

Sport	Number of teams		
	1985-86	1996-97	Percentage change from 1985-86 to 1996-97
Baseball (sponsored for men only)			
Men	600	616	3
Basketball			
Men	689	703	2
Women	691	705	2
Bowiing			
Men	10	[a]	[b]
Women	[a]	[a]	[b]
Crew/rowing			
Men	45	52	16
Women	47	92	96
Cross-country			
Men	620	612	-1
Women	564	642	14
Fencing			
Men	61	36	-41
Women	53	42	-21
Field hockey (sponsored for women only)			
Women	234	201	-14
Football (sponsored for men only)			
Men	478	487	2
Golf			
Men	550	518	-6
Women	131	250	91
Gymnastics			
Men	58	27	-53
Women	132	85	-36
Ice hockey			
Men	117	119	2
Women	14	21	50

Lacrosse			
Men	137	163	19
Women	111	162	46
Rifle[c]			
Men	65	36	-45
Sailing			
Men	22	[a]	[b]
Women	[a]	[a]	[b]
Skiing			
Men	44	37	-16
Women	36	40	11
Soccer			
Men	489	506	3
Women	187	529	183
Softball (sponsored for women only)			
Women	480	558	16
Squash			
Men	20	22	10
Women	17	25	47
Swimming			
Men	354	331	-6
Women	369	379	3
Tennis			
Men	636	592	-7
Women	631	637	1
Track (indoor)			
Men	423	445	5
Women	363	461	27
Track (outdoor)			
Men	525	521	-1
Women	479	540	13
Volleyball			
Men	50	56	12
Women	633	679	7
Water polo			
Men	52	40	-23
Women	[a]	23	[b]

Wrestling (sponsored for men only)			
Men	301	212	-30

[a]Not reported by the NCAA because the sport was sponsored by fewer than 10 member schools in this academic year.

[b]Data for these sports were not reported in both periods, and thus a percentage change could not be computed.

[c]An NCAA official advised us that the NCAA reports information for men and women participating in rifle, a coed sport, as male student information.

Table II.3: Change in Men's Average Squad Size, by Sport, for the 725 NCAA Schools With Membership in the Same Division in Both Academic Years 1985-86 and 1996-97

	Average squad size		Change			
Sport	1985-86	1996-97	Increased	Decreased	No change	Not applicable
Baseball	34.1	29.7		X		
Basketball	18.3	16.0		X		
Bowling	9.2	[a]				[b]
Crew/rowing	51.5	39.2		X		
Cross-country	14.6	13.2		X		
Fencing	20.9	18.3		X		
Football	100.0	91.3		X		
Golf	12.3	10.8		X		
Gymnastics	15.7	14.8		X		
Ice hockey	37.6	28.9		X		
Lacrosse	36.5	31.6		X		
Rifle[c]	12.0	9.5		X		
Sailing	34.4	[a]				[b]
Skiing	19.6	14.4		X		
Soccer	29.4	25.2		X		
Squash	19.4	16.7		X		
Swimming	21.8	20.6		X		
Tennis	12.2	10.5		X		
Track (indoor)	34.3	31.4		X		
Track (outdoor)	34.7	31.3		X		
Volleyball	15.9	14.5		X		
Water polo	21.4	21.5	X			
Wrestling	26.5	25.2		X		

[a]Not reported by the NCAA because the sport was sponsored by fewer than 10 member schools in this academic year.

[b]Data for these sports were not reported in both periods, and thus a percentage change could not be computed.

[c]An NCAA official advised us that the NCAA reports information for men and women participating in rifle, a coed sport, as male student information.

Table II.4: Change in Women's Average Squad Size, by Sport, for the 725 NCAA Schools With Membership in the Same Division in Both Academic Years 1985-86 and 1996-97

	Average squad size		Change			
Sport	1985-86	1996-97	Increased	Decreased	No change	Not applicable
Basketball	15.0	13.9		X		
Crew/rowing	54.9	41.1		X		
Cross-country	11.6	12.4	X			
Fencing	11.0	13.3	X			
Field hockey	24.0	21.4		X		
Golf	8.8	8.3		X		
Gymnastics	13.5	14.4	X			
Ice hockey	21.9	20.1		X		
Lacrosse	27.0	22.5		X		
Skiing	14.2	11.4		X		
Soccer	24.1	21.7		X		
Softball	18.5	17.2		X		
Squash	17.2	14.7		X		
Swimming	20.2	20.5	X			
Tennis	11.1	9.7		X		
Track (indoor)	22.8	24.9	X			
Track (outdoor)	22.3	24.5	X			
Volleyball	14.5	13.3		X		
Water polo	[a]	19.6				[b]

[a]Not reported by the NCAA because the sport was sponsored by fewer than 10 member schools in this academic year.

[b]Data for this sport were not reported in both periods, and thus a percentage change could not be computed.

INFORMATION ON MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS ALLOWED, BY SPORT, BY THE NCAA IN ACADEMIC YEARS 1985-86 AND 1996-97

This enclosure presents information on the changes between 1985-86 and 1996-97 in the maximum number of athletic scholarships NCAA member schools were allowed to award in various men's and women's sports.

Table III.1: Change in Maximum Number of Scholarships Schools Were Allowed to Award, by Sport, for Men's Sports in the NCAA Between Academic Years 1985-86 and 1996-97

	Maximum number of scholarships schools could award		Change		
Division/sport	1985-86	1996-97	Increased	Decreased	No change
Division I schools					
Sports with scholarships based on head count[a]					
Basketball	15	13.0		X	
Football I-A[b]	95	85.0		X	
Football I-AA[b,c]	95	85.0		X	
Sports with scholarships based on equivalency[d]					
Baseball	13	11.7		X	
Cross-country and track	14	12.6		X	
Fencing	5	4.5		X	
Golf	5	4.5		X	
Gymnastics	7	6.3		X	
Ice hockey	20	18.0		X	
Lacrosse	14	12.6		X	
Rifle[e]	4	3.6		X	
Skiing	7	6.3		X	
Soccer	11	9.9		X	
Swimming	11	9.9		X	
Tennis	5	4.5		X	
Volleyball	5	4.5		X	
Water polo	5	4.5		X	
Wrestling	11	9.9		X	
Total[b,c]	**342**	**306.3**			

Division II schools					
Sports with scholarships based on equivalency[a]					
Baseball	10	9.0		X	
Basketball	12	10.0		X	
Cross-country and track	14	12.6		X	
Fencing	5	4.5		X	
Football	45	36.0		X	
Golf	4	3.6		X	
Gymnastics	6	5.4		X	
Ice hockey	15	13.5		X	
Lacrosse	12	10.8		X	
Rifle[c]	4	3.6		X	
Skiing	7	6.3		X	
Soccer	10	9.0		X	
Swimming	9	8.1		X	
Tennis	5	4.5		X	
Volleyball[c]	5	4.5		X	
Water polo	5	4.5		X	
Wrestling	10	9.0		X	
Total[f]	**117**	**106.0**			

Note: Division III schools are not allowed by NCAA rules to award athletic scholarships.

[a]Head count sports are those for which a limit is placed on the number of athletic scholarships that may be awarded. Thus, member institutions administer the maximum awards on the basis of numbers of students receiving awards (instead of dollar value). In addition, an individual scholarship cannot exceed the cost of "commonly accepted educational expenses" at each school.

[b]For Division I-A and I-AA football, there were limits on the number of initial financial aid awards that could be made to student athletes in any 1 year of 30 in 1985-86 and of 25 for I-A and 30 for I-AA in 1996-97.

[f]In addition to the head count limits, for Division I-AA football there were also limits on the total dollar value of financial aid awards; the limit in 1985-86 was the equivalent of 70 scholarships, and in 1996-97 it was 63. The limit on the dollar value for Division I-AA football could, in effect, decrease the Division I totals to 317 for 1985-86 and 284.3 for 1996-97.

[d]Equivalency sports are those for which there is no limit on the number of athletic scholarships that may be awarded, except as noted in table note "f" below; instead, there is a limit on the total dollar value of the scholarships. For example, men's Division I baseball had a maximum of 11.7 equivalency scholarships in 1996-97. Thus, a school could have awarded baseball scholarships to any number of student athletes as long as the scholarships did not exceed the equivalent dollar value of 11.7 scholarships. In addition, an individual scholarship cannot exceed the cost of "commonly accepted educational expenses" at each school.

[e]An NCAA official advised us that the NCAA reports information for men and women athletes participating in rifle, a coed sport, as male student information.

[f]The total number of scholarships in Division II schools is not equal to the sum of the scholarships for each sport. Instead, an NCAA bylaw stipulates that the total allowable number (based on equivalencies) for all men's Division II sports, except basketball and football, is 60. Thus, the maximum number of education cost-equivalency scholarships for a school in Division II is the sum of Division II basketball and football scholarships plus 60 scholarships for the remaining Division II sports.

Table III.2: Change in Maximum Number of Scholarships Schools Were Allowed to Award, by Sport, for Women's Sports in the NCAA Between Academic Years 1985-86 and 1996-97

	Maximum number of scholarships schools could award		Change			
Division/sport	1985-86	1996-97	Increased	Decreased	No change	Not applicable
Division I schools						
Sports with scholarships based on head count[a]						
Basketball	15	15.0			X	
Gymnastics	10	12.0	X			
Tennis	8	8.0			X	
Volleyball	12	12.0			X	
Sports with scholarships based on equivalency[b]						
Archery	[c]	5.0				[d]
Badminton	[c]	6.0				[d]
Bowling	[c]	5.0				[d]
Crew/rowing	[c]	20.0				[d]
Cross-country and track	16	18.0	X			
Fencing	5	5.0			X	
Field hockey	11	12.0	X			
Golf	6	6.0			X	
Ice hockey	[c]	18.0				[d]
Lacrosse	11	12.0	X			
Skiing	7	7.0			X	
Soccer	11	12.0	X			
Softball	11	12.0	X			
Squash	[c]	5.0				[d]
Swimming	14	14.0			X	
Synchronized swimming	[c]	5.0				[d]
Team handball	[c]	10.0				[d]
Water polo	[c]	8.0				[d]
Total	**137**	**227.0**				
Division II schools						
Sports with scholarships based on equivalency						
Archery	[c]	5.0				[d]
Badminton	[c]	8.0				[d]
Basketball	12	10.0		X		
Bowling	[c]	5.0				[d]
Crew/rowing	[c]	20.0				[d]
Cross-country and track	14	12.6		X		
Fencing	5	4.5		X		

Field hockey	7	6.3		X		
Golf	6	5.4		X		
Gymnastics	6	6.0			X	
Ice hockey	c	18.0				d
Lacrosse	11	9.9		X		
Skiing	7	6.3		X		
Soccer	11	9.9		X		
Softball	8	7.2		X		
Squash	c	9.0				d
Swimming	9	8.1		X		
Synchronized swimming	c	5.0				d
Team handball	c	12.0				d
Tennis	6	6.0			X	
Volleyball	8	8.0			X	
Water polo	c	8.0				d
Total	**110**	**190.2**				

Note: Division III schools are not allowed by NCAA rules to award athletic scholarships.

[a]Head count sports are those for which a limit is placed on the number of athletic scholarships that may be awarded. Thus, member institutions administer the maximum awards on the basis of numbers of students receiving awards (instead of dollar value). In addition, an individual scholarship cannot exceed the cost of "commonly accepted educational expenses" at each school.

[b]Equivalency sports are those for which there is no limit on the number of athletic scholarships that may be awarded; instead, there is a limit on the total dollar value of the scholarships. For example, women's Division I archery had a maximum of 5.0 equivalency scholarships in 1996-97. Thus, a school could have awarded archery scholarships to any number of student athletes as long as the scholarships did not exceed the equivalent dollar value of 5.0 scholarships. In addition, an individual scholarship cannot exceed the cost of "commonly accepted educational expenses" at each school.

[c]Not reported by the NCAA because it designated the sport as an emerging sport and first established scholarship limits for it in 1994.

[d]Data for these sports were not reported in both periods, and thus a percentage change could not be computed.

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